

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of fabricating insulation, comprising needling polybenzazole (PBZ) fibers into a first felt layer, such felt having an outer mold line (OML) surface and an inner mold line (IML) surface; needling poly(1,3-phenylene isophtalamide) fibers into the first felt layer; forming a gradient in the first felt layer wherein the first felt layer has a higher percentage of PBZ fibers in a region adjacent to the OML surface of the first felt than a region adjacent the IML surface of the first felt layer; affixing a layer of fabric comprised of ceramic fibers to the OML surface of the felt; and applying a ceramic coating to the fibers of the fabric layer.
2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising needling poly(1,3-phenylene isophtalamide) fibers into a second felt layer, and needling the second felt layer to the IML surface of the first felt.
3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the fabric is affixed to the OML of the first felt layer by needling the felt to the fabric, thereby entangling fibers of the felt with fibers of the fabric.
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the ceramic coating is applied to the fabric prior to affixing the fabric to the first felt layer.
5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the ceramic coating is applied to the fabric subsequent to affixing the fabric to the first felt layer.
6. (New) A method of fabricating insulation, comprising needling polybenzazole (PBZ) fibers and poly(1,3-phenylene isophtalamide) fibers into a first felt layer, such felt having an outer mold line (OML) surface and an inner mold line (IML) surface, wherein the felt has a higher percentage of PBZ fibers in the region adjacent the OML surface of the felt than the region adjacent the IML surface of the felt;

affixing a layer of fabric comprised of ceramic fibers to the OML surface of the felt; and applying a ceramic coating to the fibers of the fabric layer.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, further comprising needling poly(1,3-phenylene isophthalamide) fibers into a second felt layer, and needling the second felt layer to the IML surface of the first felt.

8. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the fabric is affixed to the OML of the first felt layer by needling the felt to the fabric, thereby entangling fibers of the felt with fibers of the fabric.

9. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the ceramic coating is applied to the fabric prior to affixing the fabric to the first felt layer.

10. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the ceramic coating is applied to the fabric subsequent to affixing the fabric to the first felt layer.